

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing system for depositing marking fluid on print media, the printing system comprising:

- a first marking engine for depositing a first marking fluid only on a first portion of the print media; and
- a second marking engine for depositing a second marking fluid only on a second portion of the print media that is different than the first portion.

2. The printing system of claim 1 wherein the printing system further includes:

- a first mechanism coupled to the first marking engine for moving the first marking engine back and forth across the print media so that the first marking engine can deposit the first marking fluid only on the first portion of the print media; and
- a second mechanism coupled to the second marking engine for moving the second marking engine back and forth across the print media so that the second marking engine can deposit the second marking fluid only on the second portion of the print media.

3. The printing system of claim 2 wherein the first mechanism is spaced from the second mechanism.

4. The printing system of claim 2 wherein the first and second mechanisms are identical.

5. The printing system of claim 4 wherein each of the first and second mechanisms includes:

- a linear guide rod for guiding the respective first and second marking engine;
- a drive motor; and
- a drive element coupled between drive motor and the respective first and second marking engine, the drive motor through the drive element

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linearly moving the respective first and second marking engine along the linear guide rod back and forth across the print media.

6. The printing system of claim 2 wherein the print media has a width dimension and a length dimension which is greater than the width dimension, and wherein the first and second mechanisms move the first and second marking engines, respectively, back and forth across the width dimension of the print media.

7. The printing system of claim 2 wherein the print media has a width dimension and a length dimension which is greater than the width dimension, and wherein the first and second mechanisms move the first and second marking engines, respectively, back and forth across the length dimension of the print media.

8. The printing system of claim 2 wherein the first and second mechanisms operate in unison to move the first and second marking engines back and forth across the print media.

9. The printing system of claim 2 wherein the first and second mechanisms operate independently of one another to move the first and second marking engines back and forth across the print media.

10. The printing system of claim 1 wherein the first and second marking fluids are the same.

11. The printing system of claim 1 wherein the first and second marking fluids are different.

12. The printing system of claim 1 wherein the first and second marking engines are identical.

13. The printing system of claim 12 wherein each of the first and second marking engines includes a printhead for printing a single color marking fluid.

14. The printing system of claim 12 wherein each of the first and second marking engines includes a printhead for printing multiple colors of marking fluid.

15. The printing system of claim 12 wherein each of the first and second marking engines includes a first printhead and at least a second printhead.

16. The printing system of claim 15 wherein the first printhead prints a single color of marking fluid and the at least a second printhead prints at least a single color of marking fluid that is different than the single color of marking fluid of the first printhead.

17. The printing system of claim 16 wherein the at least a single color of marking fluid is multiple colors of marking fluid.

18. The printing system of claim 1 wherein the printing system is a thermal inkjet printing system.

19. An inkjet printing system for depositing ink on print media, the printing system comprising:

- a first mechanism for moving a first printhead assembly relative to the print media so that the first printhead assembly can deposit ink on a first portion of the print media; and
- a second mechanism, separate from the first mechanism, for moving a second printhead assembly, that is separate from the first printhead assembly, relative to the print media so that the second printhead assembly can deposit ink on a second portion of the print media.

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20. The inkjet printing system of claim 19 wherein the first mechanism moves the first printhead assembly so that the first printhead assembly can deposit ink only on the first portion of the print media, and wherein the second mechanism moves the second printhead assembly so that the second printhead assembly can deposit ink only on the second portion of the print media which is different than the first portion of the print media.

21. The inkjet printing system of claim 19 wherein the first and second mechanisms operate in unison to move the first and second printhead assemblies relative to the print media at the same speed.

22. The inkjet printing system of claim 19 wherein the first and second mechanisms operate in unison to move the first and second printhead assemblies relative to the print media at the same time.

23. The inkjet printing system of claim 19 wherein the first and second mechanisms operate in unison to move the first and second printhead assemblies relative to the print media in the same direction.

24. The inkjet printing system of claim 19 wherein the first and second mechanisms operate in unison to move the first and second printhead assemblies relative to the print media at the same speed, at the same time and in the same direction.

25. The inkjet printing system of claim 19 wherein the first and second mechanisms operate independently of one another to move the first and second printhead assemblies relative to the print media at different speeds.

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26. The inkjet printing system of claim 19 wherein the first and second mechanisms operate independently of one another to move the first and second printhead assemblies relative to the print media at different times.
27. The inkjet printing system of claim 19 wherein the first and second mechanisms operate independently of one another to move the first and second printhead assemblies relative to the print media in different directions.
28. The inkjet printing system of claim 19 wherein the first and second mechanisms operate independently of one another to move the first and second printhead assemblies relative to the print media at different speeds, at different times and in different directions.
29. The inkjet printing system of claim 20 and further including:
a third mechanism, separate from the first and second mechanisms, for moving a third printhead assembly, that is separate from the first and second printhead assemblies, relative to the print media so that the third printhead assembly can deposit ink only on a third portion of the print media that is different than the first and second portions of the print media.
30. A method for performing a printing operation for depositing ink on print media, the method comprising:
providing a first movable printhead assembly for depositing ink;
providing a second movable printhead assembly for depositing ink; and
moving the first and second printhead assemblies back and forth across the print media so that the first printhead assembly can deposit ink only on a first portion of the print media and the second printhead assembly can deposit ink only on a second portion of the print media that is different than the first portion.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the step of moving the first and second printhead assemblies includes:

moving the first and second printhead assemblies in unison back and forth across the print media.

32. The method of claim 30 wherein the step of moving the first and second printhead assemblies includes:

moving the first and second printhead assemblies independently of one another back and forth across the print media.

33. The method of claim 30 wherein the print media has a width dimension and a length dimension which is greater than the width dimension, and wherein the step of moving the first and second printhead assemblies includes:

moving the first and second printhead assemblies back and forth across the width dimension of the print media.

34. The method of claim 30 wherein the print media has a width dimension and a length dimension which is greater than the width dimension, and wherein the step of moving the first and second printhead assemblies includes:

moving the first and second printhead assemblies back and forth across the length dimension of the print media.

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